

# ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

275 OAK ST. SUITE 150  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203  
PHONE: 716-856-6525 x121 FAX: 856-6754  
E-MAIL: [tkniazuk@ecidany.com](mailto:tkniazuk@ecidany.com)  
[www.erie.gov/enrp](http://www.erie.gov/enrp)

## Co-Chairs:

Hon. Clyde Burmaster  
Hon. Barry Weinstein, MD

## Members:

James Allen  
Hon. Vince Anello  
Tim Doolittle  
Hon. Wright Ellis  
Matthew Enstice  
Andrew Eszak  
Samuel Ferraro  
Hon. Joel Giambra  
Hon. Timothy Kennedy  
Hon. Kathy Konst  
David Lacki  
Celeste Lawson  
Gregory Lewis  
Hon. Peter McMahon  
Hal Morse  
Jo Nasoff-Finton  
Hon. Sean O'Connor  
Dr. Gary Praetzel  
Melinda Rath Sanderson  
David Roll  
David Rosenwasser  
Hon. William Ross  
Diane Ruzala  
Laura St. Pierre  
Christopher Schoepflin  
Hon. Demone Smith  
Hector Titus  
Timothy Wanamaker  
Peter Wendel

## Ad Hoc:

Michael Casale  
Lawrence Witul

## Administrator:

Tod A. Kniazuk

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Co-Chairs Clyde Burmaster & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: Transportation Chair Peter Wendel**

**Re: April, 2006 Meeting**

**Date: June 2, 2006**

---

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership Transportation Subcommittee met April 21, 2006 at the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA). Present for the meeting were subcommittee members Wendel, Burmaster, Ferraro, and Morse, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein.

### Public Transportation / Job Access Policy:

Following successful completion of the pilot, the resulting policy has been adopted in an informal manner. While it is happening, work still needs to be done to formalize the process and in turn advertise that it is an additional economic development and job creation tool in the region. This item was tabled by the subcommittee.

### NYSDOT Transportation Master Plan:

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) released its draft master plan following a series of hearings across the state; ENRP testified at the local hearing at Erie Community College. Comments on the plan are now being received, and the comment period has been extended. GBNRTC is submitting comments that commend the effort as being "a comprehensive and progressive approach to addressing the emerging needs of transportation in New York State", but that offer several suggestions for improving the draft and call for implementation schedules and strategies for the plan. Subcommittee member Morse will bring the final version of these comments back to the subcommittee, as well as NYSDOT's response.

### Niagara Greenway:

Subcommittee member Ferraro informed the group that at a meeting of the Greenway Commission's citizens advisory group some

environmental groups advocated a much more limited boundary for the greenway. While a consultant has been hired to develop a plan to be prepared by early next year and while some ideas for the greenway have already been presented, Ferraro felt that actually endorsing an idea prior to letting the planning process take its course “taints” that process. Part of the consultant’s work will be to define the boundaries and parameters of the greenway.

As approved at the March 31 general meeting, the Niagara Greenway Commission will be the keynote presentation at the June 2 general meeting.

#### Traffic Signal Coordination:

Morse told the subcommittee about a possible opportunity for intermunicipal collaboration – traffic signals. In all, GBNRTC found 1,800 signals operated by 36 jurisdictions. Currently in Erie County, municipalities are responsible for the purchase and maintenance of traffic signals on local roads. In Niagara County almost all the signals are owned by the municipalities or the state Department of Transportation. Joint purchase and maintenance could result in cost savings, and coordination of signals offers many benefits in terms of traffic flow, public safety, and environmental impact. GBNRTC and the NFTA are looking to get funds from the Air Quality Program to hire a consultant to work on the issue. This study will take six months to a year.

Eventually, you could possibly coordinate signals to improve traffic flow, and even adjust the timing based on weather conditions or special events. Co-Chair Weinstein noted that in his view the only way to get the municipalities to agree to some sort of coordination is to offer them some service for free. Morse responded that this year they are using federal funds for bridge washing, and that this could offer a potential model. In light of the time needed for the study, the subcommittee will retain the item on its agenda and revisit it at the appropriate time.

#### Niagara Parkway:

USA Niagara Redevelopment Corporation presented its proposal for the parkway, including a roundabout where the Robert Moses currently splits for city and park traffic and a pond where the original Olmsted design had one placed. The complete study area is Niagara Falls to the Power Project. In the city, Whirlpool Street would be used instead of the Parkway, as it runs parallel. Signage would direct drivers off Whirlpool to Main Street for shopping. After discussion, the subcommittee decided to remove this issue from its agenda.

Bio/Alternative Fuels:

The subcommittee discussed the current bio-fuel efforts in Orleans County. The group wondered if there were enough crops being produced locally to sustain the plant's production or if the plant would need to purchase crops from outside the area. Also, what would be done with the byproducts? **The subcommittee recommends referring the issue of bio/alternative fuels to the Economic Development Subcommittee for an opinion as to whether this should be a priority for our region.** Pending their communication, the issue will remain on the Transportation Subcommittee's agenda but no further action will take place.

Other Topics:

Other topics discussed included "CAVE – Citizens Against Virtually Everything."